

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of managing communication with non-fault tolerant network nodes in a fault-tolerant computer network, comprising the steps of:

determining detecting a network addresses address of a non-fault-tolerant network nodes node present in coupled to one of a primary network and a redundant network of a plurality of networks that form a fault-tolerant network are not fault-tolerant and are connected to only a single network;

determining the network of the plurality of networks on to which each the non-fault tolerant network node exists is coupled;

storing the detected network address data of the non-fault tolerant network nodes node; and

storing associated network data comprising the network on to which the non-fault tolerant network node exists is coupled therewith; and

sending data intended for a the non-fault to tolerant network node over only the one network on to which the non-fault tolerant network node has been determined to exist is coupled.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the step of detecting the network addresses address of the non-fault-tolerant network nodes node comprises detection of network address information that the non-fault tolerant network nodes send node sends over a the one network to which it is coupled.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of detecting network address information that is sent comprises the step of detecting Internet Protocol Address Resolution Protocol packets (IP ARP packets).

4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining the network on to which each the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled comprises the step of determining which network interface received the network address information sent from each the non-fault-tolerant network node.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing the data comprises the step of populating a non-fault-tolerant network node address table.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending data intended for a the non-fault-tolerant network node over both the primary and redundant network if the network on to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has not been determined.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein determination of whether the network on to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has been determined further comprises the steps of:

searching an address table for the stored data;

determining that the network on to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has been determined if the address table contains an entry ~~for~~ for the non-fault-tolerant network node; and

determining that the network on to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has not been determined if the address table does not contain an entry for the non-fault-tolerant network node.

8. (Original) A method of managing communication with non-fault tolerant network nodes in a fault-tolerant computer network, comprising:

transmitting data from a transmitting node to a non-fault tolerant network node over a primary network; and

transmitting data from the transmitting node to the non-fault tolerant network node over a redundant network.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving and retransmitting the data via an intermediate node when the transmitting node is unable to communicate with over both the primary and redundant networks, such that if the intermediate node receives the data via the redundant network it retransmits the data on the primary network and if the

intermediate node receives the data via the primary network it retransmits the data on the redundant network.

10. (Amended) A fault-tolerant network node interface operable to communicate with non-fault-tolerant network nodes, the interface operable to:

~~determine~~ detect ~~the a network addresses address of a network nodes node present in~~
~~coupled to one of a primary network and a redundant network of a plurality of networks that~~
~~form a fault-tolerant network are not fault-tolerant and are connected to only a single~~
~~network;~~

determine the network of the plurality of networks ~~on to which each the non-fault~~
~~tolerant network node exists is coupled;~~

store the detected network address data of the non-fault tolerant network nodes ~~node;~~
~~and to~~

store associated network data comprising the network on which the non-fault tolerant
network node exists is determined to be coupled therewith; and

send data intended for a the non-fault tolerant network node over only the one
network on which the non-fault tolerant network node has been determined to ~~exist~~ be
coupled.

11. (Amended) The interface of claim 10, wherein ~~determining~~ detecting the network
addresses of the non-fault-tolerant network nodes node comprises detection of network
address information that the non-fault-tolerant network nodes ~~send~~ node sends over a the one
network.

12. (Original) The interface of claim 11, wherein the network address information that is sent
comprises Internet Protocol Address Resolution Protocol packets (IP ARP packets).

13. (Amended) The interface of claim 11, wherein determining the network ~~on to which each~~
the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled comprises ~~determining which each non-~~
~~fault-tolerant network node exists comprises determining which network interface received~~
the network address information sent from each the non-fault-tolerant network node.

14. (Original) The interface of claim 10, wherein storing the data comprises populating a non-fault-tolerant network node address table.

15. (Amended) The interface of claim 10, wherein the network interface is further operable to send data intended for a the non-fault-tolerant network node over both the primary and redundant network if the network ~~on~~ to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has not been determined.

16. (Amended) The interface of claim 15, wherein determination of whether the network ~~on~~ to which the non-fault tolerant network node exists is coupled has been determined comprises:

searching an address table for the stored data;

determining that the network ~~on~~ to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has been determined if the address table contains an entry for the ~~non~~non-fault-tolerant network node; and

determining that the network ~~on~~ to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has not been determined if the address table does not contain an entry for the non-fault-tolerant network node.

17. (Amended) A fault-tolerant network node interface operable to communicate with non-fault-tolerant network nodes, the interface operable to:

transmit data to a non-fault-tolerant network node over a primary network; and

transmit data to a the non-fault-tolerant network node over a redundant network.

18. (Amended) The interface of claim 17, wherein transmitting data to a non-fault tolerant network node comprises receiving and retransmitting the data via an intermediate node when the transmitting node is unable to communicate ~~with over~~ both the primary and redundant networks, such that if the intermediate node receives the data via the redundant network it retransmits the data on the primary network and if the intermediate node receives the data via the primary network it retransmits the data on the redundant network.

19. (Amended) A machine-readable medium with instructions stored thereon, the instructions when executed on a computerized system ~~operable to cause the computerized system are~~ operable to cause the computerized system to:

~~determine detect~~ the network addresses ~~address~~ of a network nodes ~~node~~ present in ~~coupled to one of a primary network and a redundant network of a plurality of networks that form a fault-tolerant network are not fault-tolerant and are connected to only a single network;~~

determine the network ~~of the plurality of networks on to~~ which each ~~the~~ non-fault tolerant network node exists ~~is coupled;~~

store the detected network address data of the non-fault tolerant network nodes ~~node;~~ ~~and to~~

store associated network data comprising the network ~~on to~~ which the non-fault tolerant network node exists ~~is determined to be coupled~~ therewith; and

send data intended for ~~a~~ ~~the~~ non-fault tolerant network node over only the network ~~on to~~ which the non-fault tolerant network node has been determined to exist ~~be coupled.~~

20. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein determining the network address of ~~the~~ non-fault-tolerant network nodes ~~node~~ comprises detection of network address information that the non-fault-tolerant network nodes ~~nodes send node sends~~ over a ~~the one~~ network.

21. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the network address information that is sent comprises Internet Protocol Address Resolution Protocol packets (IP ARP packets).

22. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 20, wherein determining the network ~~on to~~ which each ~~the~~ non-fault-tolerant network node exists ~~is coupled~~ comprises determining which network interface received the network address information sent from each ~~the~~ non-fault-tolerant network node.

23. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein storing the data comprises populating a non-fault-tolerant network node address table.

24. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, the instructions when executed further operable to cause a computerized system to send data intended for the non-fault-tolerant network node over both the primary and the redundant network if the network ~~on~~ to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has not been determined.

25. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein determination of whether the network ~~on~~ to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has been determined comprises:

searching an address table for the stored data;

determining that the network ~~on~~ to which the non-fault tolerant network node exists is coupled has been determined if the address table contains an entry for the non-fault-tolerant network node; and

determining that the network ~~on~~ to which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists is coupled has not been determined if the address table does not contain an entry for the non-fault-tolerant network node.

26. (Amended) A machine-readable medium with instructions stored thereon, the instructions when executed on a computerized system operable to cause the computerized system to:

transmit data to a non-fault-tolerant network node over a primary network; and

transmit data to ~~a~~ the non-fault-tolerant network node over a redundant network.

27. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, the instructions when executed further operable to cause a computerized network of nodes to receive and retransmit the data via an intermediate node when the transmitting node is unable to communicate with over both the primary and redundant networks, such that if the intermediate node receives the data via the redundant network it retransmits the data on the primary network and if the intermediate node receives the data via the primary network it retransmits the data on the redundant network.